

## **Somerville Commission for Women**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

Sonja Durai, Director

Michelle Albert, Commissioner

Alicia Byrd, Commissioner

Marie-Annett Bernard, guest [marieannettbernard@yahoo.com](mailto:marieannettbernard@yahoo.com)

### **DIRECTORS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (Sonja Durai)**

#### **Anti-Violence**

- Successful Multicultural Immigration Coalition against Violence event.
  - Immigrant issues + violence
  - Chief of Police + two staff people attended
  - Focus on having multiculturally specific knowledge
  - Shout out given to the Police department's efforts!
- Ald Sullivan is pushing through new ordinance to better assist city employees who are victims of domestic violence. He has asked the Department of Health to assist.
- Safer Bar Program will provide training to areas bar managers/ servers.
- Teen Dating Violence: we need a new model to make it work. Working with Gay Straight Alliance
- SHRAT Meeting of Respond, BARRC, . The team assesses high-risk cases for victims of domestic violence. Sonja will convert her participation to an advisory role position.
- Event Planning: Create a museum exhibit display to review the history of commissions. The idea is to show what the commission has done.
  - What's involved? Speakers, Opening reception (music, refreshments), announcement cards, exhibit. **Moving forward, Sonja will focus on recruitment and the commissions will take charge of logistics for event planning.**

#### **Other Commission activities**

- What can we do to bring the commissions together? A super-commission event where we get together a few times a year. Assisted by the Tisch scholars.

### **TISCH SCHOLAR ACTIVITIES**

- TISCH Scholar, SasAssist in imaging activities. Sasha will engage the design group from Tufts to create the materials.
- Hearing next Wednesday at 10am at State House for Pay Equity. The State Commission is pushing this through.
- Idea for recruitment: “speed dating” for the commissions to connect with professionals and volunteers in the community.
- Jump rope a thon : let’s do it. We’ll start planning

## **Jump Rope-a-thon**

- We discussed roles:
  - Correen will oversee the project, but others will do the leg work.
  - Sonja will focus on recruitment, but the commissioners will handle the logistics of this event.
- When and Where
  - Target the end of January or early February. (January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - Hold it at three different schools on three different days.
  - After school 2:30-4pm
- Who
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Need to strategize in how to get boys to participate.
  - We could hold workshops beforehand to build up participation in the event.
- Why
  - Promote good mental, sexual, physical and social health skills
  - Teen dating violence awareness and healthy relationships
- Potential partners:
  - Shape Up Somerville
  - Recreation Department
  - Groundworks Somerville
  - Cambridge Health Alliance (Sponsorship)
  - Boys and Girls Club (Sponsorship?)
- Day of event ideas:
  - We need jump ropes! (purchase and donate to school afterwards?)
  - Single Competition.
  - Materials need to be appropriate for middle school aged kids
  - Have large baskets of fruit and small baskets of candy around.
  - Cold water bottles
  - Use a metronome to rate speed (Sonja has an antique one.)
  - Prizes
    - Small bikes (Ask the Boys and Girls Club to donate?)
    - Bonkers \$10 gift passes (to draw in boys)
    - Galleria gift certificate?